

Appl. No. : 10/053,014  
Filed : October 16, 2001

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (New) A method for conducting an examination within the vaginal cavity of a patient, comprising:

providing a speculum comprising a handle and a dilator, wherein the dilator consists of a shorter dilator member and a longer dilator member and the shorter dilator member is positioned between the longer member and the handle;

positioning the dilator within the vaginal cavity;

pivoting a dilator member with respect to the other dilator member to adjust the angular relation between the shorter and longer members.

27. (New) The method of Claim 26, further comprising:

positioning the dilator such that the shorter member is adjacent to the cervix and adapted to reposition the vagina to reveal the cervix.

28. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the speculum further includes an actuator adapted to rotate at least one dilator member and the actuator is activated to rotate at least one dilator member.

29. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the actuator is adapted to rotate the shorter dilator member and the actuator is activated to rotate the shorter dilator member:

30. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the actuator is adapted to rotate the longer dilator member and the actuator is activated to rotate the longer dilator member.

31. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the step of pivoting further includes:

rotating the shorter member with respect to the longer member to adjust the angular relation between the members.

32. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the step of pivoting further includes:

rotating the longer member with respect to the shorter member to adjust the angular relation between the members.

33. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the step of pivoting further includes:

rotating the second, longer member proximate to a junction of the second dilator member and the handle.

34. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the step of pivoting further includes:

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rotating the first, shorter member proximate to a junction of the first dilator member and the handle.

35. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the speculum further comprises a coupler adapted to facilitate adjustment of the relative spatial position between the first and second dilator members and the coupler is activated to adjust the relative spatial position between the first and second dilator members.

36. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the dilator is disposed at an angle between about 100 degrees and 145 degrees with respect to the handle.

37. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the dilator is disposed at an angle between about 90 degrees and 135 degrees with respect to the handle.

38. (New) A method for conducting an examination within the vaginal cavity of a patient, comprising:

providing a speculum comprising a handle, a dilator wherein the dilator consists of a shorter dilator member and a longer dilator member and the shorter dilator member is positioned between the longer member and the handle and wherein the shorter dilator member and the longer dilator member are positioned within an angle less than 180 degrees of the handle, an actuator adapted to pivotally rotate at least one of the dilator members, a handle comprising a first handle member and a second handle member, wherein the first handle member is attached to the longer dilator member and the second handle member is integrally formed with the shorter dilator member;

positioning the dilator within the vaginal cavity;

rotating the shorter dilator member with respect to the longer member to adjust the angular relation between the shorter and longer members.

39. (New) The method of Claim 38, wherein the speculum further includes a coupling device adapted to adjust the relative spatial position between the first and second dilator members and the coupling device is activated to adjust the relative spatial position between the first and second dilator members.

40. (New) The method of Claim 38, wherein the dilator is disposed at an angle between about 100 degrees and 145 degrees with respect to the handle.

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41. (New) The method of Claim 38, wherein the dilator is disposed at an angle between about 90 degrees and 135 degrees with respect to the handle.

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